

Book reviews

Non-Gonococcal Urethritis in Men (Urethritis Non Gonorrhoeica des Mannes) By J. SÖLTS-SZÖTS. 1973. Pp. 83, 4 photographs. Springer-Verlag, Berlin (DM 19.80)

The language barrier remains one of the greatest obstacles to the harmonization and mutual understanding of the medical services in Europe. British and American doctors are usually familiar with each others literature but frequently ignore what has been written in French or German. Equally there is a natural tendency for more attention to be given to papers published in their own language by German and French medical writers. This sometimes results in work being repeated unnecessarily and leads to the results of research being published as new and original, when they may already have been described in the literature of another language. Much of this confusion can be avoided by periodic, carefully written review articles and monographs, which accurately describe recent work in a particular field.

Doctor Söltz-Szöts works at the university department of dermato-venereology in Vienna and has himself made important contributions to the literature on gonococcal and non-gonococcal urethritis, as well as sexually-transmitted virus diseases. This monograph of eighty pages with four black and white illustrations contains a very thorough and clear review of the major research contributions on non-gonococcal urethritis during the past years. European contributions, frequently unknown to English-speaking authors, are given appropriate space and importance, and much of the best work from Great Britain and the United States is also fully described.

The chapters on fungus infections, virus infections, and Reiter's disease are particularly useful and well written. The work on *Chlamydia oculo-genitale*, and especially the contributions of Jones and Dunlop from the Institute of Ophthalmology and the London Hospital, does not receive the attention it merits in the search for the agents responsible for non-specific genital infections. Nevertheless the whole subject is

covered in a concise and clear way and the book can be recommended to all those interested in this fascinating and tantalizing field of medicine.

The monograph is attractively produced, the type face being very clear and the volume agreeable to read. It should be available in all comprehensive medical libraries and in the departmental libraries of all progressive departments of venereology. It merits translation into English, when it could be made widely available throughout the North American continent where the whole subject of non-gonococcal urethritis is so poorly understood. Meanwhile, for European readers familiar with the German language, it is likely to be the standard reference work for some years to come.

R. D. Catterall

Enfermedades venéreas en el mundo (Venereal diseases in the world). By K. KIRALY, G. CAUSSE, L. JUHLIN, R. R. WILLCOX, A. SIBOULET, and G. PRIETO. 1973. Pp. 116, bibl. Antibioticos SA, Madrid

The five articles in this book were originally published in *Tribuna Medica*. The distinction of the authors is reflected in the quality of the articles.

Professor Kiraly and Dr. Causse write on the epidemiology and importance of venereal diseases. Professor Juhlin deals with the factors related to the increased incidence of the venereal diseases. Dr. Willcox outlines recommendations for the treatment of syphilis in the light of the experience that has accumulated in the 30 years since penicillin was first used for this purpose in 1943 by Mahoney and his colleagues; this article summarizes the review by Idsøe, Guthe, and Willcox (Supplement to the *Bulletin of the World Health Organisation* (1972), vol. 47). Dr. Siboulet gives an account of the treatment at the present time of gonorrhoea and of non-gonococcal infection. Professor Prieto comments on the other articles and gives an account of the campaign against venereal disease in Spain.

Eric Dunlop